

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for simulating the measurement of a part using a visual measurement system, the apparatus comprising:

a computer executing a software program which receives a digital model of a part, and renders an image of the model of the part, the image rendered under conditions simulating a measurement system, and which evaluates the image to produce a value representative of a physical characteristic of the part.

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2. A method of simulating measurement of a physical part using a computer model of the physical part, comprising:

launching measurement software;

simulating a physical measurement system;

manipulating the simulated measurement system to produce a virtual observation of the computer model; and

analyzing the virtual observation to produce the simulated measurement.

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3. A software product including a machine readable medium on which is encoded a sequenced instructions which when executed cause an apparatus to perform steps of:

launching measurement software;

simulating a physical measurement system;

manipulating the simulated measurement system to produce a virtual observation of the computer model; and

analyzing the virtual observation to produce the simulated measurement.

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